

VETERANS' CONCLAVE STARTS TOMORROW

Convention of Army and Navy Union to Discuss Service Bills.

Gen. Burt, of Washington, Candidate for National Commander.

G. A. R. Hall is today all in readiness for the beginning of the convention tomorrow of the Army and Navy Union, and delegates are beginning to come to town.

There promises to be an interesting and spirited fight over the election of the national commander, which will take place on the last day, Friday. Two candidates are in the field, Gen. J. Edwin Brown, of Baltimore, for re-election, and Gen. Andrew S. Burt, the candidate of the Washington garrison. The former has established headquarters at the Regent, where are also the headquarters of the convention.

General Burt has also established headquarters in room 140 at the Regent, where the delegates from the four Washington commanderies are making a strenuous campaign for his election. They are opposed to more than one term for any national commander, and feel confident of General Burt's election.

A movement is on foot to change the constitution of the organization, so that the office of adjutant general may be divided in two, another office of quartermaster general, and making both appointive by the national commander.

There is also likely to be a contest over the office of inspector general. The present incumbent, Sanders E. Adams, of Jersey City, will run for re-election. While there is as yet no avowed candidate from Washington, Robert Aiton, chairman of the Washington delegation, says that Washington will come forward with a full ticket by the time election day, Friday, is reached.

A proposition to admit the members of the revenue cutter service will also be presented.

The New York State delegation, fifty strong, has taken quarters at the Metropolitan Hotel under charge of Department Commander Harlan P. Christie and Capt. Alfred A. Mitchell. This delegation, it is asserted at General Brown's headquarters, is solid for his re-election and will conduct the campaign for him.

The national corps officers will hold an executive session tonight at the Regent to lay plans for the guidance and information of the incoming administration.

The session of the convention that will be held tomorrow morning will be a business one, and may possibly get around to a discussion of the two bills that will be presented to Congress at the next session. These bills provide for increases in pay of the enlisted men of the army and navy and for their retirement at the end of twenty-five years instead of thirty years service, as is now the law.

In commenting upon the latter bill this morning, General Brown said that it was designed to increase "especially the efficiency of the personnel of the navy. He showed a remarkable set of statistics demonstrating that most of the enlisted men in the navy did not re-enlist, and that after the second enlistment, very few came back for a third, the result being that the men of the navy were continually young and inexperienced. This difficulty, he thought, would be greatly decreased by the passage of the two bills, to be recommended by the union.

Another matter to be taken up by the convention will be the formation of a self-governing ladies' auxiliary, provided there are enough women delegates to justify it.

STANDARD OIL FIREMEN DECIDE NOT TO STRIKE

CHICAGO, July 16.—Despite the orders of the central officers of their union at Philadelphia, firemen at Whiting, employed by the Standard Oil Company, have decided not to strike. This decision was reached after a conference with officials of the company, at which an increase of pay from 25 cents to 35 cents an hour was granted.

The Law the Ice Man Makes



TOLSTOY'S DEATH IS DENIED TODAY, DESPITE RUMORS

LONDON, July 16.—Denial is made today by the Reuter Telegram Company of the report widely circulated in European capitals that Count Leo Tolstoy is dead. It is said he is in unusually good health. The report came from St. Petersburg, on the strength of a telephone message last night from Moscow. Tolstoy has been in failing health for some time, and the rumor was at first credited.

No word was received this morning until the denial. Tolstoy's agent, in St. Petersburg at present, but no word has been received from him.

ANACOSTIA M. E. SCHOOL ON ITS ANNUAL OUTING

The Anacostia M. E. Sunday School and its friends went on their annual outing to Chesapeake Beach today. For this excursion, 1,600 tickets were sold by the teachers and children of the Sunday school. Athletic and aquatic events are scheduled for the boys and girls, and a regular old-fashioned picnic party is the order of the day.

Superfluous Hair. Frowns, Red Veins, Birth Marks, Freckles, Wrinkles permanently removed without the use of the knife. Only Licensed Graduated Physician at the National Dermatological Institute 11th and F Sts. N. W. Second floor.

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CONGRESS WILL BE ASKED TO IMPROVE HOLMEAD PLACE

Engineer Commissioner Morrow announces that the Commissioners would recommend to the next session of Congress the improvement of Holmead place, between Park road and Otis place.

L. R. Grabill, superintendent of public roads, says the improvement is needed and should be made. The last Congress failed to provide for the improvement notwithstanding it has been repeatedly asked by the Commissioners.

Legacy Lost If Widow Remarries. Ten thousand dollars is the portion left to Mrs. Rose U. Watkins by the will of her husband, Edgar P. Watkins, which was yesterday filed for probate. If Mrs. Watkins remarries unmarrried. If not, the income is ordered stopped.

OUR ANNUAL JULY WATCH SALE

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Ladies' Watches

Ladies' Gold-filled Chatelaine Watch and Pin; regular price, \$13.50. Special.....	\$9.00
Ladies' 14-kt. Chatelaine Watch and pin; regular price, \$18. Special....	\$12.00
Ladies' 14-kt. solid gold, very thin Chatelaine Watch with gold dial and pin; regular price \$22. Special	\$15.00
Ladies' 14-kt. Solid Gold Waltham or Elgin Hunting Watch, fancy engraved case, regular price \$25. Special....	\$18.00
Ladies' 14-kt. Solid Gold Hunting Case Elgin or Waltham movement, with genuine brilliant cut diamond; regular price, \$37.50. Special	\$25.00
Ladies' 14-kt. solid gold extra heavy hand engraved case, Waltham, Elgin or R. Harris & Co. movement; regular price, \$40.00. Special	\$25.00

ATTORNEY RUSSELL RETURNS; WON BIG CASE

Assistant Attorney General Russell has just returned from a visit to Charleston, W. Va., where he won a sweeping victory in an important peonage case. It possesses international interest by reason of the fact that the proceedings of the case were instigated by the Italian ambassador.

Iowa's Crew to Man Vermont. A crew for the newly commissioned battleship Vermont, has been obtained by transferring the entire corps of enlisted men from the Iowa. The Vermont is now stationed at Boston, while the Iowa will remain out of commission for an indefinite period at the Norfolk yard.

FLEET'S ORDERS KEPT A SECRET; FRICTION HINTED

Is there serious friction between high officers of the Navy Department? Are great naval movements planned without consultation between the heads of the bureau through which their execution must depend?

Are navy officers guilty of giving out for publication stories reflecting injuriously on the navy, and apprising other powers of weaknesses that should be strictly kept secret?

These direct charges are made in high quarters by an official, who brands such conduct as no less than seditious. These are some of the pertinent questions being asked today, prompted by the astonishing discovery that no order, verbal or written, referring to the movement of a fleet of warships, great or small, to the Pacific, has been received by any official of the Navy Department now in the city. The records of the department do not show that such an order has been issued to any official of the department now absent.

Anomalous Situation. This anomalous situation is presented: Navy Department officials and navy officers know by the public announcements of the President and Secretary of the Navy that the greatest fleet of American warships ever before assembled is to mobilize in the fall for a journey for the Pacific coast, and are "getting their houses in order" to comply with directions which they expect will reach them before the mobilization of the fleet.

Recent Methods Criticized. Although officials of the department decline to discuss the subject for publication, for obvious reasons, they make an attempt to conceal their surprise at recent methods of administering department policies. They predict a split in the department shortly.

Secretary Metcalf's friends, on the other hand, scoff at the suggestion that he could be guilty of any discourtesy to his immediate subordinates. The members of the general board of the navy, which plans the movements and develops the large policies of the navy, are in close touch with the President and the Secretary of the Navy, and the remarkable situation has been presented of information reaching the public about the movements planned for the battleship fleet without the executive bureau chiefs knowing what was going on. As a result, their position of absolute denial of things which within a few days were verified on the authority of Oyster Bay and Secretary Metcalf.

But this is not all the trouble. It is alleged further that some officers connected with the general board have been responsible for stories reaching the public concerning navy matters which ought to have been held strictly confidential.

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